

Guest Speakers



Lee Grim is a retired Ornithologist and Biology Instructor and has been a Biologist at Voyageurs since 1973. Lee received his degrees in Biology, Zoology and Wildlife Management from North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota. Lee has obtained a wealth of knowledge about the birds that live and migrate through Voyageurs, especially warblers. Lee enjoys teaching people about the ecology and habitats of birds.



Chris Hemsted is the founder of Boreal Explorations EcoAdventures (BEEA) and is an experienced scientist, naturalist, wilderness guide and educator. Chris outfits and leads interpretive kayaking adventures throughout Voyageurs National Park and can take you paddling through sparkling, interlacing waterways in search of the 240 species of birds that inhabit the park. Trips with BEEA are steeped with Chris' passion for the scenic beauty and knowledge of the ecological and geological significance of Voyageurs National Park.



Chris Holbeck is the Environmental Planning and Partnership Specialist at Voyageurs National Park. He is a graduate of Northland College with a B.S. in Biology. Chris started birding casually with his mother 30 years ago. He conducted breeding bird surveys in Wyoming for the National Park Service before learning the birds of the Mojave desert while working at Joshua Tree National Park. He looks forward to each outing with the anticipation of another winged discovery.



Ahlan Johanson lives in Fort Frances, Ontario and has been birding for more than 7 years. He retired from the Ministry of Natural Resources where he worked for the lands and parks department. He received his degree in Forestry from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and has been an active member of the Rainy River Field Naturalists since his retirement. Ahlan enjoys the outdoors, fishing and leading bird hikes.



Charlotte Klesman is an instructor at Rainy River Community College. She enjoys volunteering behind the desk and in the field at Voyageurs National Park. In the summer she leads canoe and hiking trips and in the winter she helps lead snowshoe and ski trips. When she isn't volunteering she can still be seen taking advantage of the many recreational opportunities Voyageurs National Park offers.



Dee Kuder grew up in the Twin Cities and spent summers in Moose Lake, MN. Her family was always actively involved in bird watching and 25 years ago, she started her life list of birds. Dee and her husband made their way to Crane Lake 15 years ago. Dee is the Administrative Director of the Crane Lake Visitor & Tourism Bureau.



Shelly Ward has her degree in Business and Biology from the University of Wisconsin- Stout. 18 years ago she came to Northern Minnesota to be the Gardner and Naturalist at Nelson's Resort in Crane Lake, MN. Shelly is a Master Gardner who owns her own landscaping business that focuses on native plants. She looks forward to sharing her knowledge with you.



Jim Williams has been birding for over 50 years. He has served as associate editor of the magazine *Birding*, published by the American Birding Association, as editor of the newsletter "Minnesota Birding", and as editor of the magazine published for members of the North American Bluebird Society. He currently writes a birding column for the "Minneapolis Star Tribune" and contributes photographs for the Trib's weekly birding page. He is a member of the National Wildlife Refuge System Birding Initiative Team, a volunteer effort to make refuges better places to go birding. He and his wife Jude live in Orono, Minnesota.



Mike Williams was raised at Kettle Falls and except for serving two years in the USMC, has guided fishermen on Rainy Lake since 1959. Recently retired from ownership of the Thunderbird Lodge, Mike now captains the "Otter" and "Borealis" on Kabetogama and Rainy Lake and also fills in behind the counter at the Rainy Lake Visitor Center.